

MSK-5008
2 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - April 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. A month of significant movement in ROK-DPRK relations, changes in the local political scene, and Soviet involvement in the peninsula all helped to push the Bureau's publishable wordage in April over the 650,000 mark. Perhaps the highlight in Bureau coverage for the month, however, was the visit of ROK President Chon Tu-hwan to the United States 24-29 April, and his summit talks with President Reagan. The Bureau processed President Chon's various departure and arrival statements and reports on his activities during the visit, as well as ROK and DPRK media reaction.

2. With the conclusion of the "Team Spirit" military exercises in the ROK, Seoul and Pyongyang wasted no time in rescheduling the various negotiations interrupted by DPRK reaction to these exercises. On the morning of 4 April Pyongyang radio carried DPRK counterproposals on holding the postponed North-South economic and Red Cross talks. Seoul radio broadcast the ROK's acceptance of the proposals the same afternoon. On 9 April the DPRK escalated the North-South competition to propose tension-reducing measures by proposing joint meetings or talks between the two parliaments. Two days later Seoul radio reported a pledge by ROK parliamentarians to give the suggestion a "sincere response." The Bureau alerted the appropriate Embassy and local military consumers, who used many FBIS items as the bases of their reportage on these developments.

3. The Bureau called attention to another apparent shift in the DPRK leadership, based on turnout at an agitators conference on 11 April. AG expressed appreciation for the prompt handling of the item. A lengthy VSL on Pyongyang TV coverage of a 9 April DPRK parliamentary session also addressed the leadership question, and was praised by several Embassy officials. Another indication of apparent leadership shifts in the North was the 14 April Pyongyang radio announcement that Defense Minister O Chin-u had been awarded the title "vice marshal," apparently the first official to be so honored since the Korean war period.

4. ROK politics in the aftermath of the National Assembly elections in February continued on a confrontational course, with the ruling and leading opposition parties unable to resolve differences on a number of issues that the opposition NKDP insists must be settled before the new National Assembly can meet. The continuing stalemate resulted in indefinite postponement of the 22 April scheduled opening of the Assembly. In the midst of this embroglio, the country's second largest opposition party collapsed, with most of its members joining the NKDP, adding to the spirit of confrontation. In response to the rapidly heating, though not yet dangerous political environment, the Bureau has expanded ROK vernacular press summaries and increased its filing from the ROK press.

5. Another area of change reflected in the month's file was in Soviet relations with the two Koreas. On 4 April DPRK heir-apparent Kim Chong-il hosted a dinner for a visiting CPSU delegation--an unusual event serving to demonstrate Soviet acceptance of the junior Kim as successor to Kim Il-song. A few days earlier, a Soviet ice skating delegation toured the ROK, the first such Soviet sports delegation to visit since before the Korean War. The ROK played up the visit, seeing it as an indication that the Soviets would participate in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

B. Communications

1. A new path and router for the Bureau's primary Mode II circuit was officially inaugurated on 1 April, although utilization of the path was delayed several times for on-line training of TCU personnel. The change was a reflection of a broader upgrading of the entire TCU communications system, giving the Bureau a more reliable Mode II primary, access to an expanded backup HF link and protection if the Clark ground station goes down. The Bureau is submitting a revised Communications Report to Headquarters.

2. The Bureau lost all power for 25 minutes on the eve of 24 April due to a commercial power outage compounded by problems bringing up the Embassy backup generator. The duty editor notified Headquarters of the problem by phone, and the Bureau covered both Seoul and Pyongyang radios with its battery-powered Sonys.

C. Technical

1. With the help of the Embassy in Tokyo, the Bureau purchased Headquarters-recommended Panasonic RQ-2309AV cassette recorders to replace aging and lower quality National Panasonics. The new units are being put into service immediately, and the replaced units will be turned over to GSO for disposal during a property disposal sale.

2. As part of the reconfiguration of equipment in TCU, the Bureau has removed two multicouplers from the TCU equipment racks. The multicouplers had connected Main Radio to the Bureau's rooftop antennas. The antennas have now been rewired directly to Main Radio.

II. VISITS

STAT

A. Okinawa Bureau Engineer [redacted] visited the Bureau from 5-8 April for a routine inspection.

STAT

B. At the request of the Embassy Defense Attache Office, Senior Editor [redacted] briefed three U.S. Army Foreign Area Officers and two DMZ helicopter pilots on the 19th, and provided a tour of the premises.

STAT

[redacted]

Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
Acting Chief, Okinawa Bureau

SEOUL BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR April, 1985I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 653,970
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 154,360
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,552

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	13,020 min	5,850 min	90 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			
CHINA (PRC)			
Beijing in			
Korean to Korea	5,750		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	7,940		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	9,550		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in			
Mandarin	8,900		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	8,150		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	8,740		
Tianjin City Service in			
Mandarin	3,100		
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in			4,600
Chinese			
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in			400
Chinese			
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in			7,400
Chinese			
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in			10,800
Chinese			
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in			17,800
Chinese			
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in			5,100
Chinese			
CLANDESTINE			
(Clandestine) Voice of the Revolutionary			
Party for Reunification in			
Korean to South Korea	28,800		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	185,160		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		177,600	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			6,700
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	3,550		
Seoul YONHAP in English		43,570	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			2,800
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			3,400
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			1,300
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			720
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			650
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			52,270
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			34,400
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			9,970
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Korean to Korea	4,850		